

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 250513

64

ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 R

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L/PM: MR. MICHEL SUBS.)

S/S - MR. GAMMON

H: MR. JENKINS

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R 270102Z OEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

S E C R E T STATE 250513

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, ESTC, VE, CU, US

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN SHIPS IN THE CUBA TRADE

REF: CARACAS 10744

1. APPRECIATE REPORT IN REFTEL CONCERNING CALVANI'S ASSURANCES THAT THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER PARTICIPATION OF VENEZUELAN FLAG CARRIERS IN CUBA TRADE. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES HOWEVER THAT INFORMAL ASSURANCES RECEIVED WITH RESPECT TO T-19 INCIDENT MAY NOT BE SUFFICIENT IN EVEN OF CONGRESSIONAL OR OTHER CHALLENGE TO DEPARTMENT DECISION NOT TO SUSPEND ASSISTANCE UNDER SECTION 620 (A) OF FAA. NEVERTHELESS WE REALIZE THAT IT MAY BE POLITICALLY DIFFICULT TO SECURE MORE FORMAL COMMITMENTS AND THUS WOULD PREFER NOT TO SEEK
SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 250513

A WRITTEN STATEMENT. AS ALTERNATIVE, WE WOULD LIKE TO PURSUE ANOTHER APPROACH WHICH WOULD SATISFY OUR CONCERN.

2. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH YOU CONSIDER APPROPRIATE AND FEASIBLE, YOU SHOULD ADVISE FORMIN THAT, SHOULD THE ISSUE ARISE, WE WILL BE INFORMING CONGRESS THAT WE HAVE CONSULTED WITH VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SUBSEQUENT TO SHIPMENT, HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT GOV

IS AWARE OF PROVISIONS OF OUR LEGISLATION, THAT IT IS ITS POLICY NOT TO PERMIT SHIPS UNDER ITS REGISTRY, INCLUDING NAVAL VESSELS, TO PARTICIPATE IN CUBA TRADE, AND THAT APPROPRIATE STEPS TO THAT END ARE BEING TAKEN.

3. REACTION OF FOREIGN MINISTER SHOULD BE ELICITED AND REPORTED FULLY. GIVEN COMMENTS REPORTED REFTEL WE ASSUME THAT FOREIGN MINISTER WILL SIMPLY INDICATE THAT HE HAS NO OBJECTION TO OUR MAKING SUCH STATEMENTS TO OUR CONGRESS SHOULD THAT NEED ARISE. ADDITIONAL DEMARCHE SHOULD SERVE TO EMPHASIZE BOTH OUR CONCERN AND EXTENT OUR RELIANCE ON INFORMAL ASSURANCES. IF CALVANI NOT IN FACT SPEAKING FOR GOV ON THIS MATTER WE PRESUME HE WILL CONSULT WITH PRESIDENT BEFORE RESPONDING. KISSINGER

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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